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(54) METHOD FOR THE *TREATMENT* OF GRAFTS

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Abstract

The present invention provides a method *for treatment* of grafts which comprises introducing a nucleic acid encoding an angiogenic agent into the cells of the graft. The graft may be treated ex vivo and then transplanted into the donor or may be treated after transplantation. The graft may be autologous, allogenic, xenogenic or a tissue engineered graft ("bio-artifical" organ). The nucleic acid may be introduced to the cultured cells used to form the tissue engineered graft. Expression of the angiogenic agent by the cells of the graft promotes growth of new blood vessels (*angiogenesis*) providing the graft with a blood supply thus increasing the chances for graft survival.

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